

IMPLEMENTATION DOCUMENT
FOR
PLAN FOR ASSISTING STATES, FEDERAL AGENCIES AND TRIBES
IN MANAGING CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE
IN WILD AND CAPTIVE CERVIDS

DEVELOPED BY THE
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**THIS DOCUMENT IS NOT AN OFFICIAL USDA/USDI POSITION, IT REPRESENTS
THE BEST THINKING OF THE STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES REFERENCE
WHAT IS NECESSARY TO MANAGE THIS DISEASE.**



PROVIDED BY NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

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INTRODUCTION

On June 26, 2002 a plan for assisting States, Federal Agencies, and Tribes in managing Chronic Wasting Disease in Wild and Captive Cervids was released to the public. The plan proposes goals and actions and serves as a blueprint for future activities. The plan was developed by a team of professionals in the fields of wildlife health, wildlife management, wildlife biology and livestock health. It represents the most current scientific knowledge on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and delineates actions needed to address the ongoing effort to identify the extent of the disease and management actions needed to limit its spread.

To continue forward progress, this Implementation Document has been developed. This plan was developed by an 11 member team representing the States, United States Department of the Interior (DOI), and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) with input from a myriad of wildlife management and animal health professionals across the nation. It provides information that conveys who is responsible for individual projects, what projects will accomplish to help address CWD, the cost, and project time frames.

To ensure success, a “National CWD Implementation Plan Oversight Team” will be formed to guide the implementation of the action items in this plan. This oversight team will consist of six members, two each from the states, DOI and USDA. This team will be co-chaired by the Administrator of USDA-APHIS and the Director of the USFWS.

The implementation plan is composed of six sections, describing actions needed to address communications, information dissemination, diagnostics, disease management, research and surveillance. Although the sections are not in priority order, it is acknowledged that the most pressing need at this time is surveillance to identify the occurrence and extent of CWD in free-ranging cervid populations. Two additional pressing needs include responding to newly identified foci of the disease in free-ranging cervids and the implementation of a herd certification program for farmed cervids.

FUNDING

The budget needs identified in this plan are those dollars predicted to be required to fully implement all action items. Not all funding will be federal, nor will it be all State. The preparers of this implementation plan believe that all entities involved should strive to utilize all funding sources available, including federal, State, Tribal and private funds. Given current budget constraints, certain action items outlined will not be completed on the schedule set-forth in this plan. Nevertheless, Congressionally appropriated funds made available through the USDA shall be made available to the various States and Tribes through cooperative agreement grants which will consist of the cooperative agreement itself, a work plan and a financial plan. The bureaus within the DOI will address the highest priorities outlined in this plan, utilizing those funds provided in the President’s annual budget request (s). Funds made available through the DOI may be distributed through cooperative agreements, memorandum of understanding, multi-State grant applications, Federal Aid in Fish and Wildlife restoration program grants and the cooperative wildlife research program. Although this plan addresses both captive and free-ranging cervids, the majority of the funding for the captive cervid monitoring program

administered by USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)-VS is covered in that agency's annual budget requests. The funding in this plan for captive cervids addresses primarily research and outreach. A brief budget table is included as Appendix Four.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT CONSIDERATIONS

As with any action involving Federal lands, agencies or funding that may affect the environment, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) must be considered. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the United States Department of Interior (DOI) each have NEPA guidelines that they operate under. The USDA and DOI guidelines are attached as Appendix One and Appendix Two, respectively.

COMMUNICATIONS

The overall goal of this section is to create an effective mechanism for making scientific information accessible to all parties dealing with the CWD issue. USDA, DOI, and other Federal, Tribal and State agencies have been engaged in ongoing communications efforts as part of their CWD activities. The communications plan is not meant to reflect all the activities of all the entities involved in this issue, but to outline a national program of outreach on this disease and its management for significant target audiences.

Specific goals are:

- Goal 1: Increase awareness of and educate target audiences about CWD.
- Goal 2: Provide accepted and updated scientific information on current knowledge and advances in CWD management and control.
- Goal 3: Provide scientific and technical training information on CWD management and surveillance alternatives to State, Federal and Tribal employees.

Action items to address these goals are:

Action Item 1: Production of materials.

A. Produce and update fact sheets on general CWD disease information, CWD funding and Federal, State and Tribal programs and actions to address CWD. Expand to include information from all reliable sources. These fact sheets will be used to educate the public, the public health community and the veterinary/wildlife community and stakeholders on CWD efforts.

What: Develop fact sheets.

When: Templates for State, Tribal and Federal agency use will be completed by December 31, 2002. Several of the required documents already exist and can be readily adapted for other State, Tribal and Federal agency use.

Who: Assigned public affairs staff from State and Federal agencies. These staff members will be assigned as needed fact sheets are identified and prioritized. State, Tribal and Federal agencies will print and distribute the fact sheets as their budgets permit. Michigan DNR has volunteered to develop a fact sheet covering

current Federal, State and Tribal activities and State programs and responses since they have developed the regulations table and have the contact information for this.

Budget Needs: Year 1: \$50,000 (States)
Year 2: \$25,000 (States)
Year 3: \$25,000 (States)

Action Item 2: Events, Training and Distribution of information.

A. Working in concert with State, Federal agency and Tribal efforts, produce radio and public service announcements, and distribute information to all affected States, Federal agencies and Tribes with copies to all cooperators.

B. Provide program management, training videos and disease identification field guides.

C. Provide information packets to all agriculture extension agents and State and Tribal Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resource Agencies and federal land management agencies.

What: Development of the fact sheets in action item one will provide information for parts of this action item. Professional training will be provided by the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) through development of a training module on CWD and its management.

When: All fact sheets will be distributed by March 15, 2003. The training module at NCTC will be available by March 31, 2003.

Who: The fact sheets will be distributed by the appropriate agency to the appropriate natural resource agencies, federal agencies and Tribes as they become available. Distribution to Agriculture Extension Agents will be through the Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service of the USDA. All documents will also be posted on appropriate web sites. NCTC Staff will develop the NCTC Training Module with assistance from States, Universities, USDA and DOI.

Budget Needs: Year 1: \$30,000 (\$5,000 States & \$25,000 DOI - NCTC).
Year 2: \$30,000 (\$5,000 States & \$25,000 DOI - NCTC).
Year 3: \$30,000 (\$5,000 States & \$25,000 DOI - NCTC).

Another What: Establish a schedule for conducting a biennial CWD symposium modeled after the national CWD symposium held in Denver, Colorado in 2002. Future symposia will have a proceedings published as soon as possible after the event.

When: Every even numbered year at a date to be determined. Planning for the 2004 symposium will begin in January of 2003.

Who: The CWD Alliance with assistance from Federal, State, and Tribal agencies.

Budget Needs: Year 1: \$10,000 (To host State or Tribal agency)
Year 2: \$25,000 (To host State or Tribal agency)
Year 3: \$10,000 (To host State or Tribal agency)

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

The overall goal of this section is to provide a mechanism for making CWD information accessible in a timely fashion to all State, Tribes and Federal agencies, and others involved in the CWD issue. The plan calls for the creation of uniform standards for CWD data collection and transfer, making available hardware, software, and data management support to States, and providing for information sharing among all State, Tribal and Federal groups dealing with CWD. There will be two data bases developed (one for captive cervids administered by USDA and one for wild cervids administered by DOI) and they will be electronically connected.

Specific goals are:

- Goal 1: Providing access to common scientific and technical information in a partner based data system.
- Goal 2: Integrating CWD data from State, Tribal and Federal agencies, and others into the National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) Wildlife Disease Information Node (WDIN).
- Goal 3: Working with States and Tribes to create data standards that will allow interoperability with existing CWD data sets.
- Goal 4: Providing wildlife managers and veterinarians with near real-time access to CWD data and other critical information.

Action items to address these goals are:

Action Item 1 - Integrated Information Systems

- A. Establish a robust database that can accommodate testing results as well as research, monitoring and surveillance data from State, Tribal and Federal agencies.

What: A national user friendly data base for storage and retrieval of scientific information and surveillance data for access by all State, Tribal and Federal agencies working on CWD. Access to this data base will consider data confidentiality issues. Data base managers from States, Tribes and Federal agencies will develop the proper method of data transfer and storage to insure that data ownership issues are addressed. Funding to provide the States, Tribes and Federal agencies the necessary equipment and knowledge to utilize these data bases may be required.

When: The data base is expected to become available to users by June 30, 2003.

Who: State and Tribal agencies working with DOI and USDA. The NBII, which is managed by the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS), will be used to provide access to internet-based CWD information, as pertains to free-ranging cervids. The National CWD WDIN, housed at the USGS National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC), will be utilized for the wild cervid data base and the Agriculture Department's Farmed Animal Disease Database for CWD, housed at the center for Epidemiology and Animals Health, will be utilized for the captive cervid data. The data base for wild cervids will be developed by a joint USDA/DOI/State/Tribal team of data base managers assigned to the task.

Budget Needs: Year 1: \$250,000 (DOI - USGS)
Year 2: \$150,000 (DOI - USGS)
Year 3: \$150,000 (DOI - USGS)

B. Develop a data import system to allow State, Tribal and Federal agencies to enter their current and archival data.

What: Development of standard data collection protocols for import into the NBII WDIN data base and a software system that permits easy importation into the data base. This system will also provide for the download of information through the Internet from States, federal agencies and Tribes.

When: By December 31, 2003

Who: State and Tribal agencies working with USGS staff at the NWHC on NBII with data base team from item 1 above.

Budget Needs: Year 1: \$200,000 (DOI - USGS)
Year 2: \$200,000 (DOI - USGS)
Year 3: \$300,000 (DOI - USGS)

C. Develop data collection and management standards in cooperation with State, Tribal and Federal Agencies.

What: Develop standardized information collection protocol compatible with NBII WDIN data base, including method of recording locations (lat-long; township, range, section; GPS, etc.).

When: By December 31, 2002

Who: USGS to assist States, Federal agencies and Tribes.

Budget Needs: Included in number 2 above.

D. Develop a certification and quality control system to assure that only verifiable data are included in the WDIN data base.

What: Development of a quality control system for data collection and storage that includes backup of data, quality of location data indicator, accuracy of scientific data, efficiency of download system, etc.

When: By December 31, 2003

Who: USGS NWHC in consultation with the States, Federal agencies and Tribes.

Budget Needs: Included above.

E. Develop and/or provide resources for digitization of location data for samples from both free-ranging and captive cervids that can be used with the system described above.

What: Digitization of locational data for captive and wild cervids.

When: By December 31, 2003

Who: USGS NWHC in consultation with the States, Federal agencies and Tribes.

Budget Needs: Year 1: \$50,000 (States)
Year 2: \$50,000 (States)
Year 3: \$50,000 (States)

F. Distribute all subsets of data collected back to contributors in formats suitable for their needs.

What: All data subsets will be distributed to the participating State, Federal and Tribal agencies through the Internet in a manner that permits quick and easy access.

When: By December 31, 2002

Who: USGS NWHC in consultation with those entities submitting data.

Budget Needs: Included above.

G. Create a Web based system that will integrate information collected above.

What: A user friendly web site that provides all information on CWD to users. Catalog and provide Internet links to other State, Federal, Tribal and non-government organizations with CWD information sources. Parts of this site would be password protected.

When: By March 31, 2003

Who: Lead taken by USGS with all State, Tribal and Federal agencies participating. Good starting point is the CWD Alliance web site already up and running. Information could be provided through the NBII CWD WDIN portal.

Budget Needs: Included above

H. Maintain Web based information system created in Action Item 1 above.

What: Annual maintenance of Web based information system and associated equipment.

When: Annually

Who: Lead taken by USGS and CWD Alliance.

Budget Needs: Year 1: \$25,000 (DOI - USGS)
Year 2: \$25,000 (DOI - USGS)
Year 3: \$25,000 (DOI - USGS)

DIAGNOSTICS

CWD assays currently in use and development are, and will be, validated only for epidemiological or disease control purposes. Immunohistochemistry (IHC) is the current gold standard test and will be used to evaluate alternative tests. High-throughput assays may be available for use in laboratories (not animal-side) in the fall 2002 hunting/control season on an experimental basis, but will not be validated prior to the season. The assays may be validated for use by early 2003. Current laboratory capacity to test surveillance and research samples should be sufficient using IHC testing at approved State/University laboratories as part of a network. However, as the volume and rate of sample submission is uncertain, reporting of results may be delayed. Laboratories should be approved first to use the standardized IHC, which will allow them to assist in validating, and then use high throughput assays. To ensure the integrity of the U. S. surveillance effort, and to ensure that testing is performed for the proper purpose, official testing will be performed only by the National Veterinary Service Laboratory (NVSL) and accredited State/University laboratories.

Specific goals are:

- Goal 1: Develop an adequate laboratory system and capacity for testing and a timely turnaround time for distribution of results.
- Goal 2: Evaluate existing diagnostic tests for CWD, both postmortem and live-animal, understanding that the tests must be accurate, reasonably fast, and inexpensive.
- Goal 3: Establish a consensus standard on how to accredit laboratories to conduct CWD testing.
- Goal 4: Describe the time requirements for obtaining results from the various tests so that CWD programs can incorporate accurate assumptions about the “turnaround time” needed.
- Goal 5: Facilitate evaluation and validation of high throughput screening tests.

Action items to address these goals are:

Action Item 1: Establish sufficient testing capacity. Surveillance testing needed in the next 12 months and beyond will be accomplished by establishing and supporting (including direct funding of laboratory testing and equipment) a network of the well-established State/University veterinary diagnostic laboratories. This includes those already selected or currently being selected by USDA-APHIS for standardized IHC testing. A total of fifteen contract laboratories will be certified by January 2003; additional laboratories will be added during 2003 if needed.

What: A minimum of 15 laboratories will to be certified by January 2003. States must be able to submit samples directly to the lab of their choice, however, if States choose to work within the APHIS contract system, APHIS will have the discretion to direct samples to particular laboratories. APHIS will consider location and established relationships between labs and States when directing samples.

When: December 31, 2003

Who: USDA

Budget Needs: Year 1: \$1,500,000 (USDA - NVSL)
Year 2: \$600,000 (USDA - NVSL)
Year 3: \$300,000 (USDA - NVSL)

Action Item 2: Continue using IHC. Currently approximately 100 assays/day/machine can be run using IHC. The use of 15 laboratories would allow 300,000 samples per year to be tested.

What: IHC is considered the “gold standard” of transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) testing. Until such time as a better and/or more accurate test is developed, this will be used for CWD testing.

When: Ongoing

Who: USDA

Budget Needs: See surveillance section for costs of testing samples.

Action Item 3: Assure sample quality. Captive cervid owners and the general hunting public should not remove tissue samples for monitoring, surveillance or research purposes. Sample collector training will be professionally conducted. Laboratory technicians must be vigilant in identifying and rejecting inappropriate samples. Laboratories not performing IHC may contribute to the testing strategy through quality sample preparation.

What: Sample quality is of utmost importance to proper determination of the occurrence and prevalence of CWD. The vast majority of samples will be collected by State and tribal biologists during fall hunting seasons. Proper removal and storage of the brain stem, medial retropharyngeal lymph node and tonsils are key to CWD surveillance. Development of a training module and video to assure proper sample collection and quality is a pressing need.

When: July 31, 2003

Who: The NCTC will work with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to adapt the recently completed CWD video into a training video for distribution to all entities collecting samples. USDA will assist in training of sample takers.

Budget Needs: Year 1: \$50,000 (DOI - NCTC).

Action Item 4: Assist in validation and application of high throughput screening tests. A variety of high throughput assays are currently being developed or validated with the intention of commercializing them. Commercial manufacturers should submit application packages to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB). The evaluation of high-throughput TSE tests already used for bovine spongiform encephalopathy in European cattle should be completed rapidly. A tissue repository will be established from diagnostic samples to evaluate proposed tests and provide research tissue. Some IHC laboratories will run parallel pre-license high-throughput assays, providing validation data, and may use the new assays as their primary screening assay post-license.

What: Development of a high throughput test for CWD testing will be encouraged by all entities. All entities will work with private producers of high throughput tests to evaluate and validate their tests. Development of high throughput tests is secondary to completing the IHC testing for the fall of 2002.

When: By December 31, 2003 and ongoing.

Who: Tests will be developed by private firms. USDA, Center for Veterinary Biologics will evaluate and validate these tests. Universities and State, Federal and Tribal agencies will assist in evaluation and validation.

Budget Needs: Funding for evaluation and validation should be provided by the private producers of high throughput tests for evaluation and validation. Funding needs for establishment and maintenance of tissue banks:

Year 1: \$100,000 (USDA - NVSL)

Year 2: \$25,000 (USDA - NVSL)

Year 3: \$25,000 (USDA - NVSL)

DISEASE MANAGEMENT

The goals for the management of Chronic Wasting Disease in cervids are to prevent the introduction of disease into free-ranging populations and captive herds, to eradicate the disease when it is detected in new areas or herds, to eliminate the disease from all captive herds and to reduce prevalence of disease in endemic areas to minimize affects of the disease on wild populations. States and Tribes will choose one or more of the CWD management goals based on the CWD status of their State or Tribal land. Other items related to CWD disease management include limiting contact between free-ranging and captive animals, safe carcass disposal, restocking, culling versus large scale depopulation, and other issues to be addressed.

Specific goals are:

Goal 1: Prevention: To maintain a population or area free from CWD.

Goal 2: Elimination: To remove CWD and prevent its reintroduction from a specific area.

Goal 3: Maintenance: To keep CWD below a specified level of prevalence.

Goal 4: Containment: To keep CWD from spreading outside of an area where it is confirmed.

Action items to address these goals are:

Action Item 1: Disease Prevention.

The actions below relate primarily to free-ranging cervids. The USDA-APHIS national certification program will address CWD prevention in farmed cervids.

A. Entities without CWD should plan to prevent its introduction through movement restrictions. Agricultural and wildlife agencies should provide scientifically based recommendations for limiting animal movement to prevent the spread of CWD; these restrictions for farmed animals will be part of the APHIS National Certification Program for CWD. Restrictions on movement of farmed and wild cervids are already in place in several States.

What: A complete evaluation of existing regulations for and development of new model policies for the intrastate movement of captive cervids, wild cervids and carcass parts will be undertaken.

When: By July 31, 2003

Who: State wildlife agencies working through the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Wildlife Health Task Force with assistance from USDA, DOI, and Federal and Tribal agencies. Individual State, Federal and Tribal authorities must pass and enforce appropriate regulations.

Budget Needs: Year 1: \$25,000 (States)

B. Restrictions on baiting and feeding should be implemented.

What: A comprehensive white paper on the impacts of baiting and feeding will be developed.

When: By July 31, 2003

Who: State wildlife agencies working through the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Wildlife Health Task Force with assistance from Federal and Tribal agencies.

Budget needs: Year 1: \$25,000 (States)

C. Risk assessments.

What: Consultation on risk assessments for CWD for States, Tribes and Federal agencies may be conducted.

When: As requested

Who: DOI and USDA with interested States and Tribes.

Budget Needs: None, as costs are to be borne by entities requesting risk assessment.

Action Item 2: Management techniques to eliminate, contain and/or control CWD. Where CWD has been identified, the following tools can be considered for use together or singly in a management response.

A. Outbreak Surveillance: Surveillance establishes the prevalence, incidence, and distribution of the disease, and allows the evaluation of management actions.

B. Population Management: Depopulation can be used for free-ranging cervids in limited geographical areas. Reduction in population density can be used where CWD is already present. Targeted removal can reduce a specific subset of an affected population (such as yearling males that are naturally dispersing from a CWD area).

C. Testing and Removal: Testing and removal can be used to remove CWD affected animals from a population. This approach may be appropriate only in limited situations.

D. Therapeutics and Vaccines: These tools are not currently available. Much more research is required to develop these tools for use. (See research section)

E. Human Behavior: Prohibition of feeding or baiting, changes in hunting rules, carcass disposal recommendations and changes in the regulation of the captive cervid industry are all examples of management tools that may change human behavior and control CWD.

F. Habitat Modification: The manipulation of environmental factors could limit animal use of affected areas and potential exposure. Such tools may be useful in dealing with environmental contamination.

G. Movement Restrictions: Agricultural and wildlife agencies should provide scientifically based recommendations for limiting animal movements to prevent the spread of CWD. Restrictions are already in place in several States.

What: States, Federal land management agencies and Tribal agencies should develop and implement contingency plans for areas without confirmed CWD. In areas where CWD has been detected, State, Federal and Tribal agencies should

develop and implement management plans to meet CWD management goals. Model plans that address all parts of this action item, including adaptive management and environmental decontamination issues, should be developed and distributed. These plans will be utilized to determine the amount of Federal funding provided to States, Federal land management agencies and Tribes for CWD control and management. **When:** Plans developed by December 31, 2003. Implementation of plans will be ongoing.

Who: States working through the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, DOI and USDA.

Budget Needs: Year 1: \$10,000,000 (\$2,000,000 USDA - APHIS; \$3,000,000 DOI; \$5,000,000 States)

Year 2: \$14,000,000 (\$2,000,000 USDA - APHIS; \$3,000,000 DOI; \$9,000,000 States)

Year 3: \$14,500,000 (\$2,000,000 USDA - APHIS; \$3,000,000 DOI; \$9,500,000 States)

Action Item 3: Management of Farmed/Captive Deer and Elk: A proposed USDA program will restrict interstate movement in order to set basic minimum standards for State regulatory programs. The proposed CWD regulatory program involves cooperative State programs with the major components being: 1) Surveillance; 2) Depopulation of CWD positive herds with indemnity; 3) Development of herd management plans for CWD positive and exposed herds. These plans include provisions for depopulation or quarantine, disposition of carcasses, decontamination, and future use of the premises; 4) Certification of herds which have participated in surveillance for at least five years without evidence of CWD; and 5) Epidemiology and related services.

What: A national program to control movement of farmed deer and elk to prevent the spread of CWD has been developed. This program must be implemented soon. Publication of proposed rules in the Federal Register should occur by November 30, 2002 with implementation as soon as possible after that.

When: By December 31, 2003

Who: USDA, State agricultural agencies and State wildlife agencies.

Budget Needs: Covered separately in USDA national CWD program for farmed cervids.

Action Item 4: Carcass Disposal:

What: Management alternatives for carcass disposal will be developed. These will be condensed into recommendations for State, Federal and Tribal agencies to consider. Additionally, a model carcass disposal plan will be developed that will identify capital intensive equipment and procedures for obtaining and/or sharing of that equipment.

When: By July 31, 2003

Who: States working through the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Wildlife Health Task Force, USDA and DOI in consultation with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Budget Needs: Year 1: \$3,000,000 (\$2,000,000 USDA - APHIS; \$1,000,000 States)
Year 2: \$1,000,000 (States)
Year 3: \$500,000 (States)
(budget needs include purchase of incinerators and digesters for use by States, Tribes and Federal agencies on a partnership basis.)

Action Item 5: Monitoring, Measurement and Adaptive Management:

A. Goals and measurement procedures should be developed in conjunction with coordinated management plans.

Contained in action item 2 and elsewhere.

B. Management actions should be monitored for results as well as for intended and unintended environmental impacts.

Contained in action item 2 and elsewhere.

C. Adaptive management approaches may prove to be effective in these activities.

Contained in action item 2 and elsewhere.

Action Item 6: Environmental Decontamination: A major concern with CWD is the potential for indirect transmission due to contamination of the environment through excretions, secretions, or the decomposition of infected animal carcasses. Management plans need to provide for decontamination as research provides tools and approaches effective in these activities.

Contained in research section.

Action Item 7: Restoration: A final phase of CWD management in wild cervid populations involves restoration of species and environments. Restoration is a critical part of gaining public approval for actions taken in controlling and/or eliminating the disease. Any restoration effort must take into consideration the possible affects of environmental contamination by the infectious agent.

What: Restoration of populations impacted by CWD must be a major consideration of all entities working on the issue. Restoration plans will differ from location to location and will be developed by the agency having regulatory authority over the affected resources. Restoration plans will include funding to the entity responsible for management of the resource.

When: Ongoing restoration plans will be included as part of the overall CWD management plans developed by State or Tribal agencies.

Who: Responsible State or Tribal agencies and Federal agencies, where appropriate, with assistance from DOI and/or USDA as requested.

Budget Needs: Contained in action item 2 above.

RESEARCH

The goal of this section is to identify and prioritize critical research needs in areas such as live-animal tests, genotyping, transmissibility, and bioassays. The identification of methods to detect

the presence and persistence of the CWD agent in the environment and the development of methods for decontamination are also included. Also addressed are epidemiology, disease management, and human dimensions of CWD. The highest priority for dispersal of research dollars should be to those scientists with well established CWD and TSE research experience.

Specific goals are:

- Goal 1: Rapid diagnostics.
- Goal 2: Biology and pathogenesis.
- Goal 3: Management and ecology of the disease and the host.
- Goal 4: Human dimensions.

Action items to address these goals are:

Action Item 1: Improve existing diagnostic tests and develop a validated live animal test.

A. Develop tests that provide early detection of the disease.

What: New tests that detect CWD earlier in the infection cycle will be researched and developed. To conduct the pre-licensing evaluations, USDA- Agricultural Research Service (ARS) proposes to establish a tissue bank from various cervids that will be used to evaluate existing tests, develop new tests and other types of research of approved entities for test development.

When: As scientific knowledge permits.

Who: USDA-ARS, appropriate universities, and State, Federal and Tribal wildlife agencies. Pre-licensing evaluation of new diagnostic tests will be coordinated by USDA-ARS. States, Tribes and universities will serve as field evaluation partners.

Budget Needs: Year 1: \$2,000,000 (USDA - ARS)

B. Determine the feasibility of tests for environmental contamination.

What: Environmental contamination will be researched and procedures for decontamination will be developed. Once sensitive and specific detection methods are developed, they will be adapted for field use with captive and free-ranging cervids and shared with responsible agencies.

When: As soon as scientific knowledge permits; research is already underway.

Who: USDA-ARS, appropriate universities, State, Tribal and other Federal agencies.

Budget Needs: Year 1: \$2,000,000 (USDA - ARS)

Action item 2: Conduct research into the biology and pathology of CWD. Prioritized needs include: 1) describing the pathogenesis of CWD; 2) determining if different strains of CWD infect different cervids; 3) determining which species are susceptible to CWD; 4) determining the routes of exposure, the rate of transmission, and the amount of agent needed to cause infection; 5) investigating the contribution of genetics to CWD susceptibility among cervid populations; and 6) developing prophylactic or treatment measures for both captive and free-ranging susceptible cervids.

What: Research is needed on the pathogenesis and course of CWD infection in susceptible species, the characterization of strains by biochemical and biological

means, the susceptibility of wildlife and domestic species in experimental settings and the host range under natural settings, disease dynamics, the role of genetic susceptibility, and development of effective prophylactic strategies to control and reduce risk. Research will include laboratory studies (e.g., Prion Protein (PrP) genetics, work with transgenic mice, and bioassay methods), captive pen/paddock studies, and field epidemiological studies in areas where CWD is present. Results of this research will identify additional diagnostic techniques for disease detection in animals, describe pathways and rates of direct (animal-to-animal) and indirect transmission, produce a catalog of biochemical signatures of PrP-CWD from wild cervids, identify and catalogue PrP alleles of cervids, expand our understanding of genetic resistance in cervids and determine the risk of infection presented by contaminated environments.

When: Current research will continue and new research needs to be initiated.

Who: USDA-ARS, DOI-USGS, State, Tribal, other Federal agencies, and universities.

Budget Needs: Year 1: \$2,000,000 (\$500,000 USDA-ARS; \$700,000 DOI-USGS; \$800,000 States)
Year 2: \$2,000,000 (\$500,000 USDA-ARS; \$700,000 DOI-USGS; \$800,000 States)
Year 3: \$2,000,000 (\$500,000 USDA-ARS; \$700,000 DOI-USGS; \$800,000 States)

Action item 3: Conduct research into disease management and host ecology. Prioritized needs include: 1) developing and enhancing models of CWD dynamics; 2) evaluating host populations dynamics and dispersal and social behavior in relation to transmission; 3) developing a GIS that can elucidate patterns of disease-host population characteristics; 4) evaluating the effectiveness of CWD control or eradication strategies; 5) studying the ecological effects of reducing deer and elk populations in CWD affected areas; 6) determining persistence of the CWD agent in the environment; 7) developing methods to inactivate the CWD agent in the laboratory and field; 8) correlating disease prevalence to cervid density; and 9) conducting research on methods of carcass disposal.

What: Research is critically needed to quantify the risk of exposure and transmission in populations of wild, free-ranging cervids with regard to such factors as movement, dispersal and social interactions; to describe how differences in dispersal patterns and social behavior affect these risks; to quantify the effects of CWD on demographic parameters (e.g., reproduction and survival rates); to quantify the association between CWD and other landscape attributes; to measure the effects of management actions on disease prevalence; to assess the persistence of the CWD agent in the environment and identify factors influencing its persistence and transmission; and to enhance and develop models to predict CWD outbreaks and evaluate management strategies. Field epidemiological studies in areas where CWD is present are the primary means of accomplishing this research. Laboratory studies will be conducted on methods to inactivate the CWD agent and will be evaluated under natural conditions. Results and outcome of this research will include expansion of management options for application in

areas where CWD occurs now or is found in the future, spatially explicit models to evaluate management actions in the endemic and new outbreak areas, and methods to inactivate the CWD agent in the environment.

When: Research on these topics is underway but needs to be expanded to assure critically needed results are available in a timely manner and to initiate studies in additional habitats.

Who: DOI-USGS, USDA-ARS, State Wildlife Agencies of States where CWD is present, and universities.

Budget Needs:

For field epidemiological studies:

Year 1: \$4,000,000 (\$1,000,000 USDA-ARS; \$2,000,000 DOI-USGS; \$1,000,000 States)
Year 2: \$5,000,000 (\$1,000,000 USDA-ARS; \$2,850,000 DOI-USGS; \$1,150,000 States)
Year 3: \$6,500,000 (\$1,500,000 USDA-ARS; \$3,000,000 DOI-USGS; \$2,000,000 States)

For methods to inactivate CWD agent:

Year 1: \$2,000,000 (\$1,000,000 USDA-ARS; \$1,000,000 States)
Year 2: \$2,000,000 (\$1,000,000 USDA-ARS; \$1,000,000 States)
Year 3: \$2,000,000 (\$1,000,000 USDA-ARS; \$1,000,000 States)

Action item 4: Conduct research into the human dimensions of CWD. Prioritized research needs include: 1) determining the attitudes, perceptions of risk, and information needs of affected human communities; 2) determining landowner and hunter willingness to participate in disease management programs; 3) determining the impact of CWD and CWD management on the economy and the social fabric of human communities; and 4) assessing communication and education strategies.

What: Surveys of all natural resource stakeholders will be conducted to determine the impacts of CWD and related management actions on perceptions, values, and participation in wildlife associated recreation and to determine the economic and social impacts on communities and agencies affected by CWD. Studies will be conducted to assess the effectiveness of various communication and education approaches for dealing with CWD management and to recommend effective strategies.

When: Surveys will be initiated by December 31, 2002 and other studies will continue over a 3-year period.

Who: International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, USDA, DOI, States, Tribes, and universities. A model CWD human dimensions survey for States and Provinces is currently being developed.

Budget Needs: Year 1: \$100,000 (States)

Year 2: \$250,000 (States)

Year 3: \$250,000 (States)

SURVEILLANCE

The overall goal of this section is to develop standards for adequate surveillance in both captive and free-ranging cervids. To find and monitor CWD in free-ranging populations, three types of surveillance are undertaken. Targeted surveillance is the collection of any cervid that exhibits clinical signs of CWD. This may be an important method on certain lands where harvest cannot easily be conducted. Hunter harvest surveillance is the collection of the heads of hunter-harvested cervids to test for CWD. Outbreak surveillance is the collection of specified numbers of animals to determine the rate of infection and the extent of an infected area which has been identified through either targeted or hunter-harvest surveillance.

The national surveillance plan for farmed cervid herds includes mandatory death reporting and CWD testing of all animals, except calves, that are slaughtered or die on the premises. Surveillance is a crucial element of the USDA National CWD Program for farmed cervids; herds are certified after five years of surveillance with no evidence of disease. The proposed farmed cervid surveillance program and the proposed surveillance program for free-ranging cervids are interdependent. Particular combinations of services will depend upon circumstances in each State, Tribal or Federal area. Although this plan addresses both captive and free-ranging cervids, the majority of the funding for the captive cervid monitoring program administered by USDA-APHIS-VS is covered in that agency's annual budget requests. The funding in this plan for captive cervids addresses primarily research and outreach.

Specific goals are:

- Goal 1: Sampling Plans: Develop sampling designs that specify numbers of animals to be sampled by area and year, and assist agencies with surveillance strategies.
- Goal 2: Early Detection: For cervid populations and herds in which no infection has been detected, the primary surveillance objective is early detection of new CWD foci.
- Goal 3: Determination of Distribution and Prevalence Rates: For cervid populations in which infection has been detected, estimate CWD prevalence over time and space.
- Goal 4: Epidemiological Investigations: Conduct surveillance to support management and research investigations on free-ranging and trace-back (tracing movement into the herd) and trace-forward (tracing movement out of the herd) efforts for the purpose of identifying transmission mechanisms.

Action items to address these goals:

Action Item 1: Determine best alternatives for sample collection and management and collection of samples.

A. Designing CWD surveillance programs.

What: A workshop is planned to provide an opportunity to review the objectives and requirements of different types of surveillance programs and to identify populations and statistical frameworks, sampling strategies and

protocols within statistically reliable limits. Risk assessment or other approaches could be used to prioritize surveillance areas. Challenges associated with various approaches will be considered such as size of target populations and animal distribution, confidence limits when all samples are negative, level of detection required for testing areas of no known disease, etc. The strategies identified in the workshop can be tailored for the specific needs of each State or agency requiring surveillance.

When: December 2002

Who: The workshop will be hosted by the USGS and will include representatives from State Wildlife Agencies, Tribal agencies, Federal agencies and universities.

Budget Needs: \$20,000 has been funded by the USGS for the workshop.

\$50,000 is needed by DOI-USGS to publish and distribute final products from the workshop and for consultation with users.

B. Implementation of CWD surveillance programs.

What: The development of surveillance strategies outlined above will be a time consuming task. The immediate need is for assistance to States and Tribes in surveillance for the fall of 2002. There will be an estimated 225,000 samples collected this fall (this figure is increased from the original estimate of 175,000 due to additional States implementing sampling plans). Surveillance will continue in additional areas or as follow-up to initial testing for several years.

When: Sampling is already in progress. Funding will be provided as soon as it is available

Who: State, Tribal and Federal agencies.

Budget Needs: Year 1: \$14,850,000 (\$2,000,000 USDA-APHIS; \$1,500,000 DOI; \$11,350,000 States)

Year 2: \$10,000,000 (\$1,000,000 USDA-APHIS; \$2,000,000 DOI; \$7,000,000 States)

Year 3: \$5,000,000 (\$1,000,000 USDA-APHIS; \$2,000,000 DOI; \$2,000,000 States)

Action Item 2: Epidemiology

A. Actions involving epidemiological investigations will include identification of high risk and exposed animals.

What: Development of a procedure to identify high risk animals/populations by epidemiological tracing will be conducted. Studies should include ecological risk assessment, risk models and other techniques. Information gained will be included in disease management plans developed by States, Tribes and Federal agencies.

When: By July 31, 2003

Who: State, Tribal and Federal agencies with assistance from USDA and DOI.

Budget Needs: Year 1: \$50,000 (States)

Year 2: \$50,000 (States)

Year 3: \$50,000 (States)

APPENDIX ONE

United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Environmental Considerations

The National Environmental Policy Act Process

For purposes of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 4321 et seq.) and its implementing regulations, participation in individual, site-specific control and elimination activities by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) pursuant to this implementation document will be governed initially by APHIS' NEPA implementing procedures. See 7 Code of Federal Regulations ((CFR) Part 372). The individual actions that this implementation document seeks to coordinate are taking place at discrete locations within a number of States today; in all likelihood, these actions—virtually all sponsored and controlled by the States—will continue, regardless of whether or not the implementation document is adopted and followed. When APHIS has been involved in those actions, they have been determined for NEPA purposes to run the gamut from not being a major Federal action, to categorically excluded from the need to prepare either an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement, to requiring preparation of an environmental assessment. In no case, however, has environmental “significance” been detected. The NEPA process for all concrete proposals advanced pursuant to the implementation document will consider the potential for significant environmental impacts, including cumulative impacts. Although the NEPA process calls on agencies to consider the “degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat” (40 CFR § 1508.27(b)(9)), APHIS plans to engage in separate consultations under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, whenever appropriate.¹

¹

Other environmental requirements, including, but not limited to, those found in the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act, will also be followed, to the extent applicable.

**APPENDIX TWO
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GUIDANCE
ON APPLYING THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)
TO CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE ACTIVITIES**

GENERAL GUIDANCE

B. Introduction

The National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. § 4371 et seq.) requires that Federal agencies prepare environmental impact statements (EIS) to address alternatives to their proposal and conduct a detailed analysis of the impacts of their proposal and alternatives for proposals significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. The purposes of NEPA include the goal of making better environmental decisions. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), established by the Act, promulgated regulations in 40 CFR 1500-1508 that include provisions for scoping the actions, impacts, and alternatives; public involvement in the decision making process; preparing environmental assessments (EA); categorically excluding actions or groups of actions from the NEPA documentation requirements; and the development of cooperating agency agreements between agencies. The CEQ NEPA Regulations also require the integration of NEPA with other planning and environmental review procedures (40 CFR 1500.2(c)).

If the proposed action may affect a listed endangered or threatened species or its designated critical habitat, the bureaus will initiate internal consultation under section 7a of the Endangered Species Act to ensure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by the bureaus is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. When an EIS or EA is prepared, the results of section 7 consultation are incorporated into the document.

II. Department of the Interior NEPA Procedures and Affected Bureau Programs

Department of Interior personnel must integrate the requirements of NEPA with the implementation of CWD planning and individual actions. The requirements for complying with NEPA are found in:

A. Council on Environmental Quality NEPA Regulations in 40 CFR 1500-1508.

A. Department of Interior NEPA Procedures in DOI 516 DM 1-6 and Instructional Memoranda.

C. Fish and Wildlife Service

The FWS NEPA procedures are found in 516 DM 6, Appendix 1. Additionally, FWS has NEPA guidance in the Fish and Wildlife Service Manual in 30 AM 2-3 and 550 FW 1, and in other guidance prepared by FWS programs. The two FWS programs involved in CWD activities are the National Wildlife Refuge System and the Federal Aid Programs.

a. National Wildlife Refuge System

The NWRS is administered under the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, that requires activities on refuges be compatible with the individual refuge and system purposes. A compatibility determination of proposed CWD management activities on a refuge may be required prior to initiating an action. A number of refuges have management of big game animals as a primary purpose. Although many management activities could fit an existing DOI categorical exclusion (e.g., surveillance, research (with negligible mortality), collection of data, etc.), other management activities, such as large-scale depopulation and disposal of infected animals, could require an EA or EIS. Some of the big game animals on refuges are listed under the Endangered Species Act, which requires internal section 7 consultation. Analysis of the regulatory and administrative framework governing NWRS involvement is recommended to review current statutes, regulations, and policies related to CWD management activities, such as disease suppression, access, compatibility, and State/Federal jurisdictional issues.

b. Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration

Approval of a Federal Aid project constitutes a Federal action that requires compliance with pertinent Federal laws and regulations. To comply with NEPA, every proposed Federal Aid project must be reviewed prior to approval to determine the effects of the proposed work upon the environment. The Division of Federal Aid has developed a NEPA supplement to these chapters, titled, *NEPA Guidance to States Participating in the Federal Aid Program*, to aid in this analysis. While States are encouraged to assist in the NEPA process, Federal Aid cannot delegate its NEPA decision-making responsibilities to State fish and wildlife agencies.

D. Bureau of Land Management

The BLM NEPA procedures are found in 516 DM 6, Appendix 5, and other guidance.

D. National Park Service

The NPS NEPA procedures are found in 516 DM 6, Appendix 7, and other guidance.

III. NEPA Guidance

Individual CWD management actions taken by bureau personnel or the use of Federal funds administered by the Department will be in accordance with Departmental NEPA procedures and the bureau's NEPA guidelines. Depending upon the action being proposed and the requirements of the Department and Bureau, the action may be covered by an existing categorical exclusion, or an EA or EIS will be prepared prior to the implementation of that action.

A. What Proposed CWD Actions Can Be Categorically Excluded?

A wide range of activities can be categorically excluded. These activities include surveillance activities such as (1) testing of sick animals that are discovered in the wild and reported to wildlife agencies, (2) randomized acquisition and testing of samples from deer and elk harvested by hunters, (3) testing of deer and elk taken by the public or agency personnel in management actions, and (4) testing of deer and elk harvested by hunters when the test results are also used by the State in its assessment and/ or management of the CWD problem. The NEPA categorical exclusions can provide coverage as long as animal mortality resulting from the activity is "negligible". Research on captive or wild animals that addresses information needs relative to CWD is also eligible. Examples include studies of pathogenesis, transmission, and susceptibility, as well as development of techniques for diagnosis. Activities that involve informing the public about the disease are eligible (e.g., presentations, videos, fact sheets). These information activities provide results of Federal Aid-funded surveillance, research, and other management activities to the public and contribute to the management of the CWD problem. This list of eligible activities is not exhaustive; other types of work would be considered on a "case by case" basis.

Use of FWS Federal Aid funds or actions proposed on national wildlife refuges triggers a "Federal nexus" requiring compliance with several Federal laws including the NEPA. NEPA compliance could require preparation of an EA or EIS for activities such as the (1) take of animals for the purpose of examining for CWD regardless of visible symptoms, and (2) management actions such as thinning or depopulating herds to reduce transmission of the disease. Regarding the use of Federal Aid funds, at this time, we recommend that State funds be used for these activities to allow this work to proceed in a timely manner. Such expenditures would not be reimbursable to the States from the Federal Aid program. Actions that generally are not categorically excluded include large-scale herd reductions, depopulation, and disposal of large quantities of possible CWD-infected carcasses.

If a DOI bureau and another agency are proposing to conduct similar CWD management actions, and the other agency has categorically excluded the action under their NEPA procedures, the DOI bureau can also categorically exclude the proposed action if:

- (a) the Bureau has made an independent evaluation to determine if categorically excluding the proposal is consistent with Bureau NEPA guidelines and Department NEPA procedures, including the exceptions to categorical exclusions in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2; and

(b) the Bureau NEPA guidelines include provisions for adopting the other Federal agency's categorical exclusion for the proposal. FWS, BLM, and NPS have provisions in their NEPA guidelines allowing the adoption of another agency's categorical exclusion, when appropriate.

B. When Should an EA or EIS Be Prepared for Proposed CWD Actions?

CEQ NEPA regulations define significance in 40 CFR 1508.27. Department of the Interior requirements regarding whether to prepare an EIS are found in DOI 516 DM 2.3. Likewise, DOI procedures on preparing EAs and EISs are found in 516 DM 3 and 4, respectively. Specific bureau requirements regarding the above are found in separate appendices in the Departmental Manual for FWS, BLM, and NPS (e.g., 516 DM 6, Appendix 1, 5, and 7, respectively).

Actions that generally are not categorically excluded and require the preparation of an EA or EIS include large-scale herd reductions, depopulation, and disposal of large quantities of possible CWD-infected carcasses.

Proposed actions that may require the preparation of an EIS include proposed actions that:

- ! are either adverse or beneficial;
- ! affect public health or safety;
- ! affect historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas;
- ! have high controversy over environmental effects;
- ! establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration;
- ! are related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulative significant environmental impacts;
- ! adversely affect structures or objects listed in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources;
- ! adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act; and
- ! threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

An EA is prepared for proposed actions that are not covered by an existing DOI categorical exclusion or DOI and bureau NEPA requirements to prepare an EIS. Procedurally, an EA is prepared to (1) determine whether the proposed action may result in significant impacts, thus requiring the preparation of an EIS; and (2) to address unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources. Following the preparation of the EA, if an EIS is not required, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is prepared.

NEPA COMPLIANCE OPTIONS

APPENDIX THREE

Option 1: Prepare Joint USDA/DOI Guidance Document and Programmatic EA

One example of this approach was the preparation of FWS Guidance/EA for the control of purple loosestrife, involving management actions on National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) and management actions funded through Federal Aid grants to the States (60 Federal Register 40852, August 10, 1995). The FWS Guidance/EA provided standardized techniques and coordination procedures and provided an evaluation of the cumulative impacts of nationwide implementation. However, it would not have reduced the need for site-specific EIAs or EAs if there was high controversy over the environmental effects. For CWD proposed actions, this approach would provide an analysis of cumulative impacts existing, but would not eliminate the necessity to prepare an EA or EIS for a site-specific action involving killing of large numbers of animals, where alternatives to the proposal and a detailed analysis of site-specific and area impacts would be required.

Assignment Lead: APHIS/BLM/FWS/NPS (joint lead)
Cooperating Agencies: ARS, BIA, USGS
Estimated Time Frame: 1 - 1.5 years
Cost: \$300k - 600k. Costs could be allocated between agencies.
Coordination: Internal USDA/DOI review. Public review.

Option 1A: Prepare Separate USDA and DOI Guidance Document and Programmatic EA

Similar to Option 1, except that USDA and DOI would issue their own separate Programmatic EAs. The guidance should be similar between agencies, but the EAs would be different, since different programs, actions, and alternatives would be considered.

Assignment Lead: APHIS and BLM/FWS/NPS/USGS separately
Cooperating Agencies: ARS, BIA, USGS, APHIS, BLM, FWS, NPS, as appropriate
Estimated Time Frame: 1 year each agency (hopefully concurrent)
Cost: \$150k - 300k for each Department
Coordination: Internal USDA/DOI review. Public review.

Option 2: Prepare Joint USDA/DOI Guidance Document and Programmatic EIS

This approach is useful when significant impacts from the proposal are expected. It is also an effective approach for addressing cumulative effects on a broad national scale, where the actions of all agencies (Federal, State, and local) can be considered. This approach would not eliminate the necessity to prepare an EA or EIS for a site-specific action involving the killing of large numbers of animals, where alternatives to the proposal and a detailed analysis of site-specific and area impacts would be required, and where an agency categorical exclusion does not apply.

Assignment Lead: APHIS/BLM/FWS/NPS (joint lead)
Cooperating Agencies: ARS, BIA, USGS

Estimated Time Frame: 2 years
Cost: \$800k to \$1.5 million Costs could be allocated between agencies.
Coordination: Internal USDA/DOI review. Public review.

Option 2A. Prepare Separate USDA and DOI Guidance Document and Programmatic EIS

Similar to Option 2, except that USDA and DOI would issue their own separate Programmatic EISs. There would be duplication in parts of the EIS (e.g., affected environment). However, the agency proposal and alternatives and impacts of those alternatives would be different. This approach would require considerable coordination between DOI and USDA to address impacts, particularly cumulative impacts, where each agency would have a contribution to the analysis.

Assignment Lead: APHIS and BLM/FWS/NPS separately
Cooperating Agencies: ARS, BIA, USGS, APHIS, BLM, FWS, NPS, as appropriate
Estimated Time Frame: 2 years (hopefully concurrently)
Cost: \$300k to \$400k for each Department
Coordination: Internal USDA/DOI review. Public review.

Option 3: Prepare Joint USDA/DOI Guidance Document/Categorically Excluded Under NEPA

FWS commonly uses this approach when issuing guidance, whereby NEPA documentation requirements, if required, would occur at the time the specific management actions are proposed. DOI has a general categorical exclusion in 516 DM 2, Appendix 1.10 that applies to guidance documents prepared by the bureaus. The Guidance should be made available for public review to strengthen the use of the categorical exclusion. Examples of FWS guidance issued under this approach include: Section 7 Consultation Guidance, Federal Aid NEPA Guidance to States Participating in the Federal Aid Program, Section 10 Incidental Take Permit Guidance, Refuge Planning Guidance (602 FW), and the Fish and Wildlife Manual. At the time specific management actions are proposed, the actions could be categorically excluded or an EA or EIS could be prepared.

Assignment Lead: APHIS/BLM/FWS/NPS (joint lead)
Estimated Time Frame: 3-6 months
Cost: \$250k to 500k. Costs could be allocated between agencies.
Coordination: Internal USDA/DOI review. Public review of Guidance document only.

Option 3A. Prepare Separate USDA and DOI Guidance Document/Categorically Excluded

Similar to Option 3, except that USDA and DOI issue their own Guidance document/categorically excluded. FWS could issue separate guidance and categorically exclude

it from NEPA documentation -- a common practice in FWS. NEPA documentation would be required, if appropriate, at the implementation of the actions stage.

Assignment Lead: APHIS and BLM/FWS/NPS separately
Estimated Time Frame: 3-6 months (hopefully concurrently)
Cost: \$125k to 250k for each Department
Coordination: Internal USDA/DOI review. Public review of Guidance document only.

Option 4: Utilize NEPA Emergency Exemption

The CEQ NEPA Regulations in 40 CFR 1506.11 provide relief from NEPA documentation in emergency situations. However, these regulations apply only in cases where an EIS (not an EA) would otherwise have been prepared, where a real and unplanned emergency exists, and when approved by CEQ. Since USDA and DOI are already planning for the anticipated management actions, it would be difficult to justify emergency actions. It is also questionable as to how many times proposed DOI CWD actions would normally require the preparation of an EIS.

Consultation with CEQ usually requires advance preparation (1-2 weeks) of an EA to review alternatives and impacts for the benefit of CEQ and to facilitate their approval.

Assignment Lead: APHIS and BLM/FWS/NPS separately
Estimated Time Frame: Immediately (approximately 1 -2 weeks), if applicable
Cost: \$25k to 50k.
Coordination: Internal USDA/DOI review. Consultation with CEQ.

Option 5: Prepare Separate EISs and EAs for Specific Actions, on a Case-by-Case Basis, by DOI and USDA (Interim/Current Situation).

This is the current approach. It would likely be continued, whether a programmatic approach is taken or not. However, following the completion of a programmatic approach, the number of EAs required could be reduced, if an agency categorical exclusion applied. Nevertheless, there would still be occasions where EAs would be required. Where a specific action would likely result in significant impacts, an EIS would be required, regardless of whether a programmatic approach was prepared or not, due to site-specific implications. As indicated in Options 1 and 2 (and their sub-options), a programmatic approach would provide the best means of addressing cumulative effects than would occur in separate site-specific EISs and EAs.

Assignment Lead: APHIS, BLM, FWS, and NPS separately
Estimated Time Frame: 1-1.5 years for an EIS, and 3 months to 1.5 years for an EA
Cost: \$200k to \$500k for an EIS, and 1k to 50k for an EA
Coordination: Internal USDA/DOI review. Public review (but generally not noticed in the Federal Register).

APPENDIX FOUR

BUDGET TABLE FOR PLAN TO ASSIST STATES, FEDERAL AGENCIES AND TRIBES IN MANAGING CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE IN WILD AND CAPTIVE CERVIDS.*

DEPARTMENT	YEAR ONE	YEAR TWO	YEAR THREE	TOTALS
INTERIOR	\$7,750,000	\$8,950,000	\$9,200,000	\$25,900,000
AGRICULTURE	\$13,600,000	\$5,525,000	\$6,325,000	\$25,450,000
STATES & TRIBES	\$20,465,000	\$20,355,000	\$16,190,000	\$57,010,000
TOTALS	\$41,815,000	\$34,830,000	\$31,715,000	\$108,360,000

* These budget figures represent the funding needed to carry out all actions outlined in the implementation document. It is expected that some of the funding will be obtained from States, Tribes and Non-Governmental organizations as well as Congressionally appropriated funds.

Costs associated with National Environmental Policy Act compliance are not included in these budget figures.

FOR
PLAN FOR ASSISTING STATES, FEDERAL AGENCIES AND TRIBES IN MANAGING
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